

Inside the Jordan Times today:

UNDP decides to finance projects for Palestinian refugees for the first time — page 2.
An Iraqi delegation led by Deputy Premier Ishaq al-Yasir Ramadan begins talks here on Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation — page 2.
Phase two of the social security plan: a Labour Day present for 25,000 Jordanian workers — page 2.
UNRWA celebrates its 30th birthday — page 2.
The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for supporting the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories withdraws aid from some Palestine villages — page 2.

Page 5, Number 1347

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Hussein returns home after Saudi, UAE visits

AMMAN, April 30 (JNA)—His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman today from Abu Dhabi following a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
The prime minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, in a statement to the press in Abu Dhabi, described the visit as aimed at coordination between His Majesty the king and King Khalid Ibn Abdul Aziz and Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan.
It also aimed at coordinating positions and analysing the Arab and international situation the prime minister added.
He said it is part of Jordanian contacts with sisterly Arab countries with the aim of unifying the Arab stand in a bid to combat the challenge of conditions surrounding the region and the Arab homeland.

The views were identical, he said, adding that the brotherly spirit and the extensive cooperation prevailed throughout the visit.
King Hussein received in Abu Dhabi this afternoon members of the Jordanian community in the UAE and affirmed his plan to contribute to the development and growth of the UAE.
His Majesty noted that Jordan is playing a major role in the defence of Arab rights in cooperation with Arab countries to achieve an Arab aspirations.

Members of the Jordanian community expressed their pride in meeting His Majesty and pledged support for his leadership.

The prime minister also met with members of the Jordanian community and noted that Jordanians contribute to the reconstruction of Arab land and to bolstering Jordan's ties with the countries in which they work.

He said: "you are carrying the characteristics of the Jordanian people who consider themselves an asset to their country and to the entire Arab homeland". Jordan, he added, "considers anyone who leaves Jordan to work in an Arab or friendly country a representative of His Majesty and his country, Jordan".

He said he hoped that "you will be envoys of good who strengthen the principles upon which Jordan is founded".

The prime minister reiterated that Jordan "under King Hussein's leadership takes big strides forward in the various economic, social and educational fields, as well as in the building of its national forces in an atmosphere of security, stability and in the spirit of participation between citizens and governments."

"Patriotism and commitment to the homeland lead to progress of the country," he added.

The prime minister emphasised that Jordan "feels the pains of Palestine and considers itself in the forefront of Arab causes which support the legitimate Palestinian rights and Arab aspirations."

The meeting with the Jordanian UAE community was headed by Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Lawzi, Court Miller Amer Khumash and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, who accompanied the king on his visit.

King Hussein was seen off at Abu Dhabi airport by the UAE president, his vice-president and prime minister, the crown prince, top officials, heads of the diplomatic corps and a number of Jordanians living in the UAE.

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi said earlier today, King Hussein and Sheikh Zaid discussed the Gulf, the Middle East conflict and strengthening Arab cooperation.

The official Emirates News Agency said the two heads of state held a closed session of talks after leading their countries' delegations in wide-ranging discussions.

The agency quoted Mr. Nuaimi as saying the talks covered all issues of mutual interest, especially the Gulf and the Middle East conflict, and the need for increased cooperation between Arab states.

King Hussein arrived in the UAE yesterday from Saudi Arabia, where he had talks with King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz.

Regional Briefs

BEIRUT, April 30 (R)—Iraq today announced that it would hold its first general elections for more than twenty years on June 26.
The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the date was set by President Saddam Hussein in a government decree. The agency said "six million people over the age of 18 were eligible to participate in the elections for a four-year term." It had no record since July 1958 when the monarchy was overthrown.
INA said that the Iraqi elections would be free and by direct ballot.
Iraqi government announced draft law for a national assembly and the autonomous Kurdistan region's legislative assembly.
The INA said the parliament would approve the budget and treaties and debate domestic and foreign policy.

AMMAN, April 30 (AP)—On the occasion of May Day, the Jordanian government announced today that President Habib Bourguiba has pardoned four union leaders jailed the wake of a strike that accompanied a 1978 general strike. The four were identified as Mohammed Chakroun, Sakob Besbes, Hammoud, and Mohammed Ben Ezzeine. In response to the three-day spree of rioting in January 1978, at least 30 people were killed by official combat, though official reports said many as 20 died when troops opened fire on rioters.

Cairo, April 30 (R)—U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary David Mervin left for home today after meeting Egyptian Vice-President Hosni Mubarak, a U.S. embassy spokesman said. Mr. Mervin arrived yesterday for talks with Egyptian Defence Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and other officials in American military assistance to Egypt. The United States has agreed to provide Egypt with advanced military hardware worth \$2 billion over the next five years. It includes F-16 fighter planes and M-60 tanks.

Cairo, April 30 (R)—A small explosive device blew out a side door of the main Jewish synagogue in the centre of Cairo last night, a synagogue official said today. The official said one was hurt and the damage was slight. "Somebody put a small explosive device through the door which leads to the synagogue's basement," he said. Sources close to the police said the explosion was the result of a short circuit in the basement which contains the synagogue's main cable line. The synagogue is being renovated for the first time in 32 years with funds from the World Jewish Federation.

TEL AVIV, April 30 (R)—Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman returned to Israel today following a visit to the United States during which he met President Jimmy Carter yesterday. Mr. Weizman said he had completed planning details of the production of a new Israeli fighter jet, to be called the "Lavie", during the visit. "I am now up to the Israeli Aircraft Industry to provide specifications for the F-404 General Electric engines for the plane. These will be produced here either wholly or in part," he said. The defence minister said he would take part in the new round of negotiations on Palestinian autonomy due to open here tomorrow.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة يومية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"



Israeli soldiers disperse crowds of demonstrators in Ramallah Tuesday afternoon after Jewish Defence League members distributed leaflets urging the town's residents to emigrate.

Gunmen seize Iran's embassy in London

LONDON, April 30 (R)—Three armed gunmen seized the Iranian embassy in London today, took about 20 hostages, and demanded the release of 91 prisoners held in the troubled Iranian province of Khuzestan.

About 60 police, many in flak jackets, surrounded the building and began negotiating with the guerrillas through an open window.

Few details of their demands were released by police. But one of the hostages told Reuters by telephone that the gunmen wanted the release of 91 prisoners in Khuzestan.

In Tehran, an Iranian ministry spokesman accused Iraqi agents of taking over the embassy. But a police spokesman at the scene said the guerrillas insisted that the world be told they were "Iranians from Arabistan, South Iran."

This is the name the Arab inhabitants give to Khuzestan, where Arab separatists have been waging a sabotage campaign against oil installations.

The seizure of the embassy, in West London's Kensington district, came just before midday when the gunmen bundled a policeman, standing outside, into the building.

The British policeman — an armed member of a group assigned to protect embassies — was kept hostage along with the 20-odd diplomats and staff inside the building.

As negotiations continued, the guerrillas released one hostage, a woman who was carried to an ambulance.

Police said there had been no shooting and no deadline set by the guerrillas.

The foreign office sent an urgent message to the Iranian government, stating Britain's concern and determination that the incident be "resolved speedily and so much as possible without casualties."

A group of 50 Iranian students

tonight offered to take the places of the hostages.
Shouting "long live Khomeini" and "Allahu Akbar (God is great)," they marched up to police surrounding the embassy and asked to be taken in to replace any of the hostages who wanted to leave.

TEHRAN, April 30 (R)—A government goodwill mission set off today for Iran's troubled Kurdish region even though a promised ceasefire between Kurdish guerrillas and government forces appeared to have failed to stop the shooting.

Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) sources here said the three-man delegation, including a former governor of the Kurdistan capital Sanandaj and a former ambassador to Czechoslovakia, left Tehran for the city of Mahabad to pave the way for peace negotiations.

The KDP, largest of the groups seeking greater autonomy for the Kurdish area of western Iran, announced a ceasefire from midnight last night and President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr said he accepted. Each side made its adherence conditional on the other complying.

But today the KDP headquarters in Sanandaj said the army was still shelling the city, now shattered after 10 days of fierce clashes.

Later, the Kurdish Society in Tehran said it understood that fighting was continuing in the four cities covered by the ceasefire: Sanandaj, Saqqez, Bikaner, and Marivan. The Kurds say up to 1,000 people have died in two weeks of fighting over most of the Kurdish region.

The KDP, in an announcement last night, called for publication of a six-point autonomy plan which Mr. Bani-Sadr's office said the president had accepted with some amendments. The plan calls for greater participation of Kurds in local administration.

Meanwhile, tension ran high in Tehran today as a result of a series of incidents following last week's abortive U.S. mission to rescue the embassy hostages which came to grief in the Iranian desert after three helicopters broke down.

A Kuwaiti diplomat was shot in the back shortly after midnight, apparently after failing to stop at one of the road blocks set up by Revolutionary Guards across the city in the last few days.

A hospital spokesman said the man, embassy attaché Mohammad Ali Adwani, was now comfortable after an operation to remove the bullet.

Shortly after this incident, Iranian air force Phantom fighters caused alarm in the capital when they roared over Tehran after an unidentified flying object was spotted over a military base in the northwest of the city. The planes discovered nothing unusual.

There was an encounter yesterday between Iranian and U.S. planes over the Sea of Oman when American fighters buzzed an Iranian transport aircraft in the vicinity of the U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz, one of the bases for last Thursday's rescue bid.

Autonomy talks resume

Arab-settlers clashes continue throughout occupied W. Bank

TEL AVIV, April 30 (Agencies)—Clashes between Palestinian Arabs and Jewish settlers continued in the occupied West Bank of Jordan today as Egyptian

Two Israelis were injured when Arabs stoned two Israeli buses in a suburb of occupied Jerusalem and burned tires in the Arab sector of the city, Israeli Radio reported.

At the same time, Arabs in the West Bank towns of Ramallah and Al Bireh said they were forming vigilante groups to counter attacks by Jewish settlers in the occupied territory.

The two buses were travelling between Jerusalem's French Hill and the Nabi Ya'acoub suburb north of the city. Other youths blocked roads in Shu'fat and Qalandia with burning tires, but police removed the barricades.

In Bethlehem and Beit Sahour, there were partial business and school strikes, while in Ramallah authorities arrested five Arabs involved in a violent counter-demonstration on Monday against right-wing Israeli extremists who called on local Arabs to emigrate.

The decision to organise the community groups followed an attack by Jewish settlers last week in Ramallah in which Arab-owned cars were damaged in retaliation for Arab stoning of Israeli vehicles.

Israeli military sources said several other incidents occurred in various places on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"The military government cannot protect us, so we must protect ourselves," said Al Bireh Mayor Ibrahim Tawil in a telephone interview. "The committees will use any means necessary. But we have no weapons."

The settlers' rampage and the demonstration by Rabbi Kahane have raised tensions in the West Bank to the point where one Israeli newspaper described the situation as "indications of the beginning of civil war."

The military government has formally outlawed the vigilante committees, and an Israeli military source described a counter-demonstration against Rabbi Kahane on Monday as the worst in several years.

The Organisation of Women on the West Bank today called on the United Nations to intervene against what it termed "the provocation of Gush Enunim (the Faith Bloc, an ultra-nationalist Jewish movement) and the attempts to drive the Palestinians from their land."

The Israeli military government today banned all May Day demonstrations on the West Bank.

Israeli military sources said 12 people were arrested last night in the West Bank town of Halhoul, suspected of stoning an Israeli bus the previous night.

In another incident, a grenade was thrown at an Israeli car in Hebron last night and landed in a cemetery without exploding.

In Tel Aviv, police said an explosive device was set off in the courtyard of a house near the city's main bus station tonight, slightly injuring one person.

Meanwhile, top Egyptian officials arrived here today to join Israeli and American negotiators in talks on Palestinian autonomy

officials arrived here to join Israeli and American negotiators in marathon sessions on Palestinian autonomy.

A group of Arab women gathered in a sit-in at the Al Bireh city hall to protest Monday's demonstration by American-born Rabbi Meir Kahane. Rabbi Kahane had sneaked into the town against military regulations, and distributed leaflets in Arabic which said, "Better find another place to live."

"The military governor said he was also against Kahane, but in fact he acts against the Palestinians," Mr. Tawil said. "He must know our mind."

He said the towns were forming street committees of about 10 people each to protect the inhabitants against Jewish settlers' vandalism.

Last week, groups of settlers drove throughout Ramallah and Al Bireh during the night with hammers and rocks and smashed windows of 24 cars and two houses.

The new round starts tomorrow with 10 days of talks in the Israeli coastal town of Herzlia, just north of Tel Aviv, and then moves to Egypt. The only breaks scheduled are for religious observances, although quick trips home for consultations may be required.

President Carter agreed with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli leader Menachem Begin in talks in Washington, two weeks ago to alternate the negotiations between their two countries in virtually continuous sessions in the hope of reaching agreement by the May 26 target date.

U.S. special envoy Sol Linowitz put forward American ideas today in an effort to revive fading hopes of reaching agreement by the target date of May 26.

The envoy told reporters he had put up the idea of President Begin at a meeting held in occupied Jerusalem this morning. The discussion, in Mr. Linowitz's words, was "very frank and very thorough." But no details of the ideas or the response by Mr. Begin were immediately disclosed.

Mr. Linowitz presented the Israeli leader with the American reply to a four-point position paper set out by Mr. Begin during his visit to Washington.

After hearing Mr. Linowitz's reply to the points Mr. Begin went into a cabinet session to report to his colleagues and hear their views. Because of the cabinet's increasingly hardline complexion, it seemed unlikely that any major Israeli concessions would be offered at Herzlia.

Although he has no experience in international negotiations, Mr. Muskie is no novice in foreign affairs. He was chairman of the senate foreign affairs committee and was briefed in depth on foreign policy when he ran unsuccessfully for vice president in 1968 and for president four years later.

His major reputation, however, has been made in the field of domestic policy, especially environmental control and government spending.

President Carter shakes hands with his new secretary of state, Mr. Edmund Muskie (left), after he announced his choice Tuesday night in the press room at the White House. Standing at the back is Vice President Walter Mondale (centre) and outgoing Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. (AP wirephoto)

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Iraqi team arrives for talks

AMMAN, April 30 (Agencies) — An Iraqi delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan began talks here today on mutual cooperation between Jordan and Iraq and the possibility of embarking on joint enterprises.

The talks between Mr. Ramadan's team and one led by Agriculture Minister and acting prime minister Qasem Al Rimawi, began less than two hours after the arrival of the Iraqi delegation. The delegation also includes Minister of Commerce Hassan Ali and Minister of Housing and Reconstruction Mohammad Fadel Hussein.

Official sources said the talks reviewed the results of discussions earlier in the week which another Iraqi delegation held with senior officials at the National Planning Council.

Those discussions resulted in an agreement to increase the volume of annual trade between the two countries to JD 12.5 million in each direction, from about JD 7 million.

The sources said that today's talks also covered questions relating to education, trade and industry.

Mr. Ramadan will have another round of talks tomorrow, expected to cover the joint projects the two countries might agree to launch, including the expansion of Aqaba Port.

UNDP plans to finance projects for Palestinians

DAMASCUS, April 30 (R) — The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) is planning to finance 17 social, economic and cultural projects for Palestinians living on the West Bank and Gaza, Dr. Walid Qamhawi, president of the Palestine National Fund, said yesterday.

Dr. Qamhawi told Reuters the UNDP had allocated \$3.5 million for the first phase of the projects. He said this was the first time the UNDP had financed such projects for Palestinians.

He added that he had lengthy

talks with UNDP Administrator Bradford Morse, who is in Damascus to brief Dr. Qamhawi on the projects and on his recent visit to Israel, where he had talks with officials on the projects.

Asked whether Israel had agreed to the projects, Dr. Qamhawi said: "Not all of them." He did not elaborate.

He said the projects came within a U.N. General Assembly resolution requesting the UNDP to implement development projects to improve the conditions of Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Steadfastness committee stops aid to West Bank towns on Israeli electricity

AMMAN, April 30 (JT) — The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for supporting the steadfastness of the people in the occupied Arab territories today decided here to stop all assistance to the few West Bank villages near Hebron that are connected to Israel's electricity network, the Jordan News Agency reported.

A JNA spokesman explained that the measure is to act as a warning to other Palestinian villages that may be considering receiving electricity from Israel. The joint committee is also con-

sidering sanctions against villages which now are, or will in the future be, hooked up to the Israeli electricity grid, JNA added.

However, a member of the PLO

Executive Committee said here today that the measures may apply only to villages and towns that in the future receive electricity from Israel. This means, he told the Jordan Times by telephone, that all villages and towns should receive electricity from Arab sources or possess their own generators.

Social security phase two starts today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, April 30 — Twenty-five thousand workers will receive a Labour Day present from the Social Security Corporation (SSC) Thursday.

Starting May 1, all those working in private companies employing over 50 people will become eligible for social security benefits. This step brings the number of employees covered to about 33,000.

That phase two of the implementation of social security coincides with International Labour Day is no accident, according to SSC Director Farhi Ubaid. "We wanted to give employees something to celebrate," he told the Jordan Times today immediately after approval for the implementation was given by the cabinet.

Phase one of the social security plan was put into effect Jan. 1. This experimental phase covered the nearly 9,000 employees of 20 companies — 17 banks, the University of Jordan, the Jordan Insurance Company and the Jordan Cement Factories Company.

Phase two includes 156 private companies. No exemptions have been granted from the scheme, which is compulsory for companies with over 50 employees. However, the present social security law does not include workers employed in contracting or in unloading cargo, so companies in these fields that do not have support staff of over 50 people are not included. Regular parttime employees, so long as they are not collecting benefits from another company of the government, are covered.

Financially independent semi-governmental institutions are not included in this phase, despite earlier press reports to the contrary. It is hoped that employees in these institutions will be included in the scheme by the end of the year, when the necessary allowances can be made in the budget.

It is expected that the following groups of workers will be included before that time: workmen employed by municipalities; daily paid workers in government departments and government employees who do not come under the grade classification system.

The social security law is currently suspended for government workers within the classification system — who are already under a separate system of benefits — but they may be brought into the

scheme at a future date. Social security insurance now covers only two categories: First, work-related injuries and occupational diseases, and secondly old age, disability and death.

For the time being, one can receive benefits for treatment at the hospital of one's choice for occupational injuries and diseases. In the future, certain hospitals will be designated to provide the care paid for by the SSC. Benefits in this category will be paid for by a contribution by the employer to the social security fund of two per cent of a worker's monthly salary.

In the category of old age, disability and death, the employer pays a premium of eight per cent of the salary and the worker puts in five per cent.

The social security law, passed by the National Consultative Council on Oct. 16, 1978, mandates four additional categories of insurance: temporary disabilities (including maternity leave); health insurance; family benefits to those whose earnings are below subsistence level and unemployment compensation. The schedule for the introduction of these benefits is still under discussion.

In the meantime, it is expected that by the end of this year a total of 75,000 workers will be covered by the first two categories of social security. Over the next three years 14,000 employees — the entire labour force eligible for social security under the present law — are expected to be covered, Mr. Ubaid said.

Commenting on the introduction of social security here, he said: "Social security has been implemented in most, if not all, the countries of the world. It has its goal of assuring the worker's psychological and material well-being and helping him to attain a decent standard of living."

Its introduction has coincided with Jordan's economic phase of development. The scheme has already generated a lot of money that is being invested in development projects of direct benefit to participants in the scheme.

He called the first phase of the scheme, implemented four months ago, successful. "It was a good experiment and shed light on all aspects of the records and the procedures involved, as well as providing insight into the law itself."

The social security law applies to all people over 16 working for Jordanian firms, regardless of their nationality, the duration and,

type of their contract or whether their work is done in or out of the country.

It does not apply to foreign employees working for international organisations or foreign political or military missions. Also excluded are labourers whose work is defined as "irregular" by Ministry of Labour regulations.

It has not yet been decided whether government employees or the following categories of workers will become eligible for benefits: agricultural labourers, sailors and fishermen, domestic servants, self-employed labourers and an employer's family members who work for him and for whom he assumes financial responsibility.

NOTEBOOK

Anyone for tea?

By Rami G. Khouri

THIS WEEK'S seminar on women in the economic development of Jordan has covered the basic points that one would expect to discuss in such a gathering — the need to encourage more women to work, the lack of facilities for working mothers, the discriminatory policies of some institutions in hiring women of child-bearing age, the need to transform secondary school curricula to orient more girls towards productive jobs.

All of this is correct; but I have a feeling that something very important remains outside the scope of these discussions. That something is the men of Jordan, and, by extension, the men of the entire Arab World.

There are many stereotypes of the old-fashioned Arab man whose narcissistic need for constant pampering, ministrations and attention is accepted as the main obstacle to great participation by women in the workforce.

Well, I think that stereotype is more or less correct. I do not think it is the best thing that women all the burdens of housework and give them to be satisfied with a bunch of ruses on Mother's Day and the occasional tribulation of excellence that is offered when the so-and-so is acclaimed as being a super by of global dimensions because she produces and raised half a dozen or more children. The reality is that the average Jordanian woman works twice as hard as her husband, and three times as hard as her husband happens to be a civil servant, or, of course, a few exceptions, because there are no civil servants who work very hard, but there are no housewives who are lazy.

I must point out once again, in a valiant attempt at pre-emptive self-defence, that I do not think the existing division of labour in society is a good system. I would personally prefer a more egalitarian arrangement which accommodates the desire of those women who want to work.

The fact is, and sadly perhaps, that a quick sustained shift of women from the home in the workforce would create a monumental vacuum where the housewife used to be. The housewife serves such an important function in the development of this society that changing her role will probably cause grave harm in the short run, though it will be a good thing in the long run for the very simple reason that most housewives are housewives by the forced dictates of their gender-dominated social order, and not by their own choosing from birth.

Consider, for example, the sheer economic resources that a housewife represents. She is first of all a major source of labour, and she would be replaced by other workers if she were kept out of housework and take up a salaried job. It is also this country's single largest indigenous source of energy. If she were to leave the house during the day, the energy she provides would have to be replaced by mechanical implements, such as vacuum cleaners and dishwashers, which all opt out on electricity generated by imported oil.

In other words, a shift of women out of the home would have major negative implications on the balance of payments. Likewise, the only source of labour to replace housewives would be

imported workers, judging from labour in Jordan today. This means further, shocks balance of payments, national savings and formation, in view of the fact that foreign workers send most of their wages to their families in their own countries, such as Egypt, Pakistan, the Philippines.

Finally, women are a major cause of society's relatively stable social systems. The crime rates than the more industrialised societies. The presence of a woman at home all a stabilising factor of immense value. Making this factor would probably result in social balance, and the consequent need to export police force to provide the local order. Social actions that is now provided by house and mothers.

Having said all this, I should also add that of these reasons is good enough to keep women home in a system of forced hard labour, psychological captivity. It is better to allow women to work and enjoy the satisfaction of a professional career. But is it also feasible to establish patterns of this society? Is the economic cost of such workers anywhere as critical as the psychological damage that will be done to men who have no other system than being served by their daughters?

The strong probability is that as more women enter the workforce, they will prove themselves on the whole, to be better workers than the Arab World. This will then aggravate havoc in the psyches of Arab men who have the servility of their women and who have been shown to be less able workers than some women. The likelihood would be for a severe psychological failure among the men of the Arab World. Some people less gracious than I think that this already exists.

The basic dilemma remains: how do we do we replace the role that women play in Arab home of today? Will we become a nation of day-care centres and homes staffed foreign workers?

I hereby abdicate responsibility, man, for that decision. It is for the men of Arab World to decide what they feel best for them and their families.

The implications of such a decision, however, are so enormous that I am slightly scared. I am, in fact, terrified — that the choice to continue to be dictated by the tyrannical importance of all the men of the Holy Land, therefore end up with the frightening prospect of perpetuating the existing incoherence of our changing societies, while creating more, in factually stifling diversions to make the women feel that they have achieved their zenith in society every time they turn on the electric vegetable slicer.

The fundamental question is this: are Arab men willing to make their own tea? If they are, what alternative is offered to the traditional making function of Arab women? We would all better off if the women stepped forward with answers to the questions that the men are obviously incapable of considering, let alone answering humanely.

Fatal flaw

THE STATE of turmoil prevailing in the occupied West Bank of Jordan owes its immediate origins to a series of violent provocations by Jewish zealots and settlers which has finally proved too much for the Palestinian inhabitants of the homeland to bear.

But it is no coincidence that the tide of resistance is rising as the last month ticks away before the collapse of the Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli talks on Palestinian "autonomy." Alarmed as they were by this blatant attempt to deprive them eternally of their nationhood, the Palestinians are even more apprehensive about what the Israelis have in store for them once their attempt to oppose "autonomy" falls apart.

For their part, the Israeli authorities are preparing back-up positions to continue and tighten the occupation once the talks have run their desultory course. As seen by those ageing terrorists Begin and Shamir, this involves renouncing, point by point, even the derisory "concessions" to Palestinian "self-rule" which the Israelis so solemnly agreed to in the original Camp David accords.

But their real work is being done for them by a new generation of Jewish terrorists, led by the fanatical Rabbi Meir Kahane. He, an American, has taken it upon himself to go round the towns and villages of occupied Palestine posting admonitions to the Arabs to "go home." He is backed by his hired thugs from the Kach group, who have taken the law into their own hands, engaging in vicious nighttime attacks on Arab persons and property.

The Palestinians have reacted with a restraint characteristic of their 32 years of patient yet determined resistance. Concerned Israelis are voicing no doubt about where the responsibility for the spiralling cycle of violence must be laid. The Hebrew newspaper Haaretz said bluntly: "The excuse for the recent deterioration was the Jewish settlers' riot in the streets of Ramallah. Its roots, to our deep regret, are much deeper... the fatal flaw of rule by military occupation where repression leads to terror, and terror to greater repression... The reality... is that on the West Bank, and in the Gaza Strip, one nation is trying to rule another against its will."

The concept of the Palestinians as a nation is obviously beyond the ken of Kahane and his gang. As they run amok shouting "Arabs go home," the Palestinians grimly observe the thirtieth anniversary of a "temporary" U.N. agency set up to provide emergency services for the quarter-million people driven out of Palestine in 1947-48. There are, of course, now nearly two million homeless refugees officially registered with UNRWA, more than a third of them living in camps. And that, of course, is only one dimension of the Palestinian diaspora. Kahane and his cohorts should know, and will find out, just how determined these people are, indeed, to "go home."

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: No one will believe that the U.N. Security Council's members, especially the European ones, cannot do anything to stop what is happening in the occupied Arab territories. These countries cannot be excused their reaction by the mere threat of an American veto, which provides protection to the Israeli aggressors.

The same countries — if sincere in their intentions — can put pressure on Israel and the U.S. to keep the situation from getting out of hand. It is obvious that the continued Israeli provocations, in all their forms, threaten to bring about such a dangerous crisis, as does the strange stalemate in the European position caused by Europe's reluctance to enter the stage of positive action by forcing Israel to abandon its settlement policy.

The statements made every now and then by European officials do not constitute convincing evidence of the sincerity of their intentions. They know that action, not words, is the way to translate theoretical positions into operational realities, especially seeing that all European statements made up to this point had no success in halting the settlement drive.

What is happening in the occupied territories is a warning to all who love peace and stability to act now, before it is too late. AL DUSTOUR: There is not the least doubt that the hard-liners are dominant in the White House. This is clear from the decision on the raid on Iran to free the hostages — which was a complete failure — as well as from the resignation of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance after Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski. President Carter's national security adviser, was able to keep the moderate Mr. Vance out of the decision-making process.

This conclusion is further strengthened by the appointment of Mr. Edmund Muskie, who is well known for his hardline attitude and Zionist tendencies, to succeed Mr. Vance. This gives the reckless group in the U.S. administration more support, influence and supremacy in the formation of foreign policy.

We had expected, as did the rest of the world, that the abortive raid on Iran would teach President Carter a lesson, and convince him to refrain from adopting a threatening attitude in dealing with international issues and follow a more moderate policy. But it seems he is instead trying to put two wrongs together to make a right.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Films

The Department of Culture and Arts, in cooperation with the Embassy of East Germany, presents a festival of German films, starting 8 p.m. at Versailles Cinema.

Book Exhibition

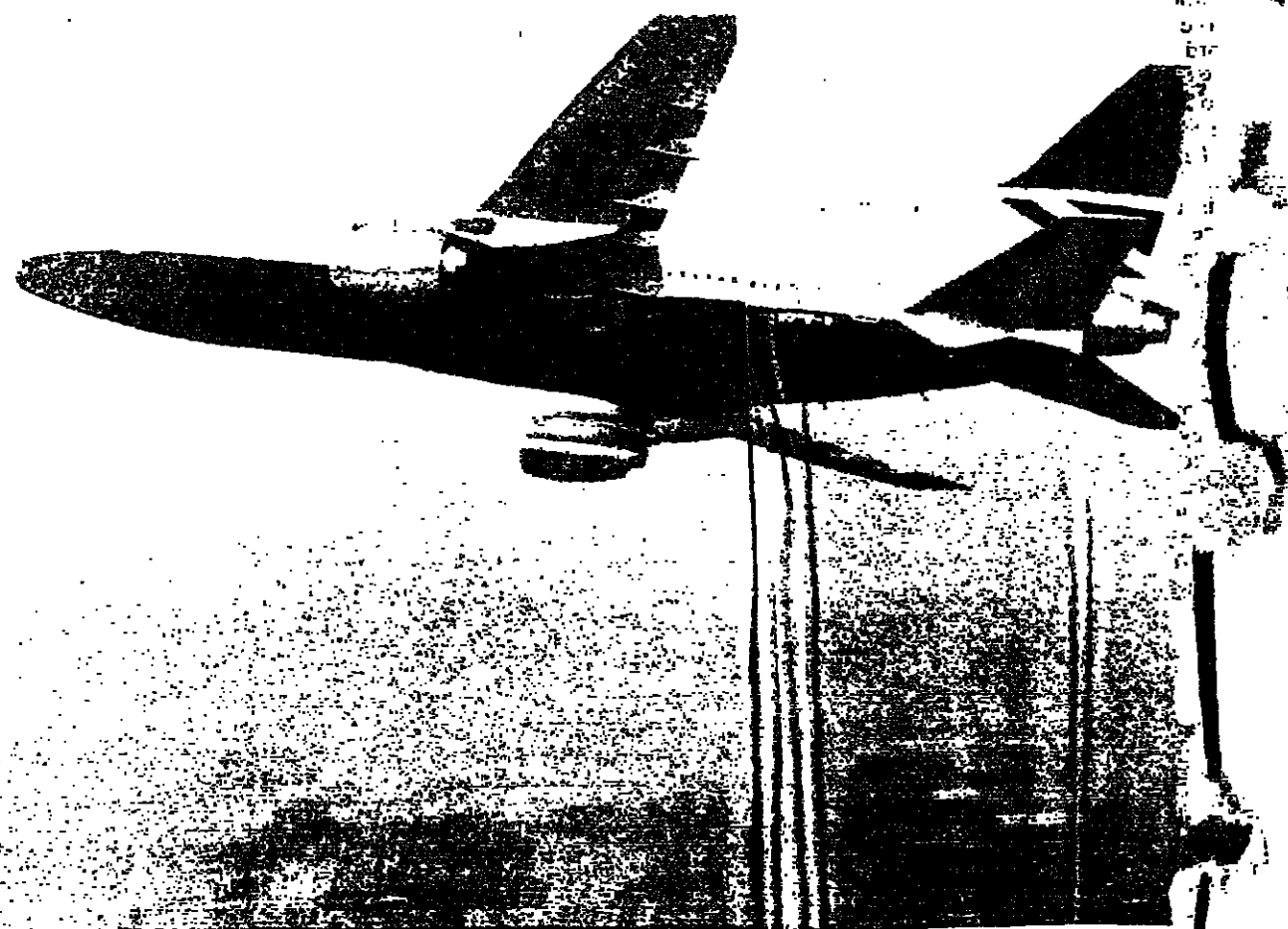
The Goethe Institute presents an exhibition of children's picture books from West Germany. The exhibition opens at 5 p.m. and continues daily until May 6.

Local News Briefs

IRBID, April 30 (JNA) — Public services in the Mafrag District were reviewed at a meeting chaired here today by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. Attending were Minister of Public Works Ma'an Abu Nuwar, local officials and notables from Mafrag District. Prince Hassan called on officials and citizens in the area to make a comprehensive study of projects and services required in their area during meetings which will be held over the next two weeks.

AQABA, April 30 (JNA) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited the Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba today, and was briefed on its services. The Queen toured the different sections of the hospital, which offers medical services to Arab nationals and non-Arabs, both labourers and tourists in the city.

AMMAN, April 30 (JNA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem said here today that his tour of four African nations at the head of an Arab League delegation is aimed at explaining the Arab political stand with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Speaking before departure to start the tour, the minister said his delegation will be going on a similar tour to the Far East, including Australia and New Zealand, before the end of this year. The current tour will take the delegation to Sierra Leone, Cameroun, Nigeria and Ghana.



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Palestine refugees: The bridge of no return

EDITOR'S NOTE: May 1 is a special occasion for UNRWA. It has been 30 years since UNRWA was established. Two generations have been born as refugees and they still await a just settlement of the Palestine refugee problem.

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, began operation in May 1950 as a temporary agency providing assistance to refugees who had fled their homes and lands in Palestine in 1948 as a result of the Arab-Israeli war. Yet the agency still exists. There is still a need.

In the first days, people lived in tents, schools, mosques and abandoned buildings through the rain and cold of winter and the heat of summer. UNRWA staffed and worked in much the same conditions. Tents gradually gave way to more substantial shelters, schools to offices; but the tents reappeared for a time to house refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 hostilities.

Today about one third of the 1.8 million Palestine refugees live in camps. The rest live in villages, towns and cities of east Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

More than 830,000 refugees still receive basic monthly rations and welfare assistance is provided to some 36,000 poor families. As in the early days of UNRWA, health services are an important part of the agency's work. Special attention is given to preventing disease and malnutrition and to the health of growing children and men of child-bearing age.

As time went on, the agency began to focus more and more on the education of Palestine refugee children. Both the agency and the host countries see education as the best way of improving their lot: a ray of hope for their future. Today the education programme accounts for nearly two-thirds of UNRWA's expenditure.

In 1951 there were 876,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA. Natural increase has more than doubled this number to 1.8 million. Half of these are under 20.

This growing population has meant building more schools, training more teachers, adding space and courses to UNRWA's educational and teacher training centres. Add to this the effects of inflation in recent years the fact that education costs have risen dramatically.

And the agency faces a chronic financial problem. In most years its income has not met what was needed to run its programmes.

In 1978 and 1979, relief services to refugees were cut substantially. The only food distributed as rations by UNRWA today is what it gives in kind from donor countries and the European Economic Community. There is not enough money to buy extra food.

UNRWA relies on voluntary contributions from governments and from inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations. The international community has been generous in its assistance, but not enough.

In 1979 the agency has a budget of more than \$185 million but its income is only \$140 million. The only answer, if more money is not received, is to reduce its services to the level of income. In practice this may mean closing schools and depriving Palestine refugee children of their education.

UNRWA's current mandate from the United Nations General Assembly runs until June 1981. Although faced with possible further cuts in services to Palestine refugees because of lack of income, UNRWA's Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck has pledged to fulfil his mandate and continue to provide services to refugees within the limits of income received by the agency. At its 1980 session, the General Assembly must decide whether to extend UNRWA's mandate for a further period.

to our homes and homelands," explains Mr. Al Khalaf.

Each family was provided with a piece of land of which a quarter was irrigated by canals bringing water from the Yarmouk, which runs into the River Jordan just beyond the bridge. Buildings that once housed workers at the hydro-electric station supplying power to Palestine before the 1948 war were used to accommodate the refugees. Money left from the funds allocated by UNRWA for the project was used to buy farm implements.

From the first year, the two groups were able to meet their own food needs, growing wheat and other crops. By selling produce they raised money to invest in a co-operative to improve production.

In June 1967 renewed hostilities destroyed the houses and canals, devastated the orchards, burnt the crops. And since then the course of the Yarmouk River has been diverted by the Israelis.

The refugees are now scattered in neighbouring villages but some still struggle on today in these fields, between a mined zone and a string of barbed wire, to work the land which now produces only a quarter of what it did before 1967.

To recall the tragedy of the Palestinians who became refugees after the 1948 Israeli-Arab conflict is to raise the question: why are they not resettled in the Arab countries that welcomed them? The modest project of which the two bedouin tribes were beneficiaries illustrates the spirit of the works programmes that UNRWA endeavoured to set in motion when it began 30 years ago.

Their objective was to facilitate the economic integration of the refugees in their host community while not prejudicing the possibility of repatriation at some time in the future.

Refugees wishing to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in these terms in 1948; it has yet to be carried out.

On May 1, 1950, UNRWA took over the job of helping the refugees from voluntary organisations (the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the American Quakers). It first concentrated on the essentials for survival by providing food, shelter and health care.

As its title indicates, UNRWA was also to be a works agency. By providing works projects and thereby helping refugees find employment, the agency hoped not only to put an end to their dependence on relief, but also to stimulate the economy of the host countries and the reduce the number of refugees requiring assistance to a small group of those unable to work. In 1952, the United Nations General Assembly accepted an estimate that \$200 million was needed to carry out

the programme.

Road building, tree planting

UNRWA began to implement projects such as road construction, forestry operations, the fostering of handicrafts, and the creation of agricultural and industrial enterprises. Some of the proposed projects, such as that aimed at irrigating part of the Sinai desert with water pumped from the Nile, were ambitious, but technically feasible. The irrigation scheme would have enabled a quarter of the 200,000 refugees in the Gaza Strip to get back on their feet again.

Road building and tree planting projects accounted for more than

the products of the refugees' work were used almost entirely by the agency.

Carpenters made furniture for UNRWA offices and schools; shoemakers, tailors and dressmakers produced clothing for distribution to refugees; tinsmiths made measuring utensils to be used in food distribution. Some made soap, bricks or matting; others produced wheelbarrows and rubber baskets made from old tyres for workmen on road building projects.

Another enterprise was set up in Gaza for the weavers from Majdal. Some 2,500 persons were employed in this project, which was later extended to Jordan, and more than one million metres of

UNRWA eventually received less than a quarter of the recommended \$200 million needed to develop fully the works projects.

2. Technical difficulties: For example, in the big Sinai project, a three-year technical investigation showed that it would be 14 years before the refugees were able to reap the first harvest on the newly irrigated desert and become self-supporting. Meanwhile they would have to depend on UNRWA.

3. The attitude of the refugees: Most of the refugees strongly opposed such works projects and they were supported in this attitude by the Arab countries.



The Jisr Al Majameh Bridge over the Jordan: once a well-trodden route.

43 per cent of the total cost of works projects in UNRWA's first year of existence. The rest was spent on projects such as an irrigation scheme on private land in Syria, municipal improvements in Lebanon, a school and a sanatorium in Jordan and various types of experimental and other housing projects in Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In order to meet the problems of refugees with some skills but no capital, small schemes were also started to provide employment for craftsmen. Refugees worked in groups on premises belonging to or rented by the Agency, and were paid daily wages. Raw materials were supplied by UNRWA and

The reasons why

Today the majority of Palestine refugees play a part in the economic life of the host countries. This is not because of UNRWA's works programme but because of its schools and vocational training centres, which have qualified the refugees' children for employment in the developing urban industries. There are three main reasons why the works programme did not succeed:

1. Lack of money: Financed by voluntary contributions.

There was no question for these people. Mostly peasants attached to their land, they could not imagine themselves settling in a country other than their own and they feared that integration in the host countries would deny them the possibility of returning to their homes.

With the same determination as that of the bedouin of Jisr Al Majameh working their adopted land, or that of the refugees born in camps and who left to build new lives in the outside world, Palestine refugees still hope for the just settlement of the refugee problem in the Middle East called for by the United Nations Security Council.

People

...in the news

FLAGS BURGEONED all over Amsterdam Wednesday as Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix was installed as the sixth constitutional monarch of the Netherlands and the latest head of the centuries-old House of Orange. The celebrations also marked the 71st birthday of Her Majesty Queen Juliana, who was stepping down from the throne in favour of her daughter.

Here in Amman, the Consul General of the Netherlands and Mrs. Raouf Abujaber held a reception on the occasion, to which the Consul General of the Netherlands and which the Consul General of the Netherlands attended, including members of the cabinet and the Upper House of Parliament. The diplomatic corps was out in force—one couldn't turn around without bumping into an ambassador.

Several bishops also adorned the gathering at the Abujabers' new home on Zahran Street in Jabal Amman; their old one has been turned into the Jordanian National Gallery of Fine Arts.

FAREWELL PARTIES began early in April, and continued with great gusto until its end, for one long-time Amman resident who will be sorely missed, Mr. Gerard Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman was leaving the country at the end of April to take up his new post in the French Consulate in Nairobi, Kenya.

The French vice-consul in Amman until four years ago, Mr. Zimmerman has lived in this country for the last 17 years.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	299.00/301.00	Overnight	low	Daytime	high
U.K. sterling	677.20/681.20	Amman	9	24	
West German mark	166.20/167.20	Aqaba	16	32	
Swiss franc	189.40/190.50	Deserts	8	28	
French franc	71.20/71.60	Jordan Valley	18	30	
Italian lire (for every 100)	35.40/35.60				
Japanese yen (for every 100)	124.80/125.50				
Dutch guilder	150.20/151.10				
Swedish crown	71.00/70.40				
Belgian franc	103.40/104.00				

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The following positions are currently open:

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Requirements: 6 to 8 years experience as operator or supervising operator in refinery process, preferably GOSP or NGL, high school degree, English-Arabic capability, utilities experience desired.

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Indicators forecast deep U.S. recession

WASHINGTON, April 30 (Agencies)—The third steepest monthly decline in history in America's index of economic indicators, which was reported today by the U.S. Commerce Department, provided more evidence that the nation may face a deep recession. The index fell 2.6 per cent in March.

It was the eighth decline in the past 12 months and the steepest for any month since September of 1974 when it fell 3 per cent as the economy was sinking into the 1974-1975 recession. "It means forces are very much tilted toward recession," said Mr. Felix Tamm, a commerce department analyst.

Mr. Tamm said there are many similarities between the behavior of the index in recent months and its behavior during the last recession, although it doesn't yet give much indication of the severity of the expected new downturn.

The 1974-1975 recession was the worst slide in the economy since the great depression. President Jimmy Carter and many other top administration officials, as well as many private economists, believe the economy entered a recession in February or March. While Mr. Carter says the new recession will be mild and short, others see a steeper downturn, especially with the crippling

decline in home building activity and the plunge in domestic auto sales.

The index of economic indicators is designed to point to future trends in the economy. Mr. Tamm said it has been pointing to sluggish or negative growth for the past 17 months. The index declined 0.4 per cent in February. It was unchanged in January, on the basis of a new revision, but declined during the previous three months. The index fell by more than 2.6 per cent in September of 1953, when it dropped 2.8 per cent.

Mr. Tamm said that the average monthly decline has been 0.8 per cent, which he said is "particularly important" in reflecting weakness of the economy.

Seven of the 10 individual statistics used in the index declined in March, led by stock prices and building permits. Also negative were the average work week, the job layoff rate, raw materials prices, the money supply, and new factory orders. On the positive side were sales deliveries, cash and other liquid assets and plant and equipment orders. The index stood in March at 131.3 of the 1967 average of 100.

Meanwhile, U.S. Steel Corporation and Bethlehem Steel Corporation, the two largest

American steel producers, reported lower earnings for the first quarter of 1980 as industry shipments slackened.

U.S. Steel said its profits for the quarter fell eight per cent to \$126.0 million from \$137.3 million in 1979. Benefiting from higher steel prices and improved non-steel operations sales rose to \$3.2 billion from \$3.1 billion. Bethlehem Steel saw its profits slip eight per cent to \$54.4 million from \$59.2 million. Sales rose to \$1.93 billion from \$1.73 billion.

Despite the downturn, U.S. Steel said it was encouraged by the results. The company noted that all subsidiaries, including its steel operations—which posted a loss for all of 1979—were profitable

during the quarter. But most earnings came from non-steel sources. Bethlehem Steel said imports combined with a weakening domestic market could hurt profits in the coming months.

On the other hand America's trade deficit narrowed to \$3.16 billion in March as exports surged by the largest percentage in two years, the commerce department reported yesterday. The March figure was \$2.4 billion lower than February's record level of \$5.6 billion.

Exports in March were up 7.6 per cent—the biggest increase since a 12.1 per cent boost in March 1978. Imports, meanwhile, declined 4.9 per cent in March, the department said.

China discovers new oil fields

PEKING, April 30 (R)—Six new major oil deposits have been discovered around China's largest oilfield at Daqing in the north-east of the country, boosting known reserves at the field by 13.3 per cent, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said today.

Quoting oilfield officials, the agency said the six major deposits would be developed into satellite oilfields and were expected to yield a total of three million tonnes of oil a year. Oil and gas flows of industrial values had been discovered at 20 locations altogether, NCNA added.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1980

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't argue with anyone over money matters during the daytime and then you can have a pleasant evening. Be wise.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Listening to ideas of associates instead of forcing yours on them brings more success now. Sidelstep one who imposes on you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Handle your work in a careful manner so that you don't have any problems connected with it. Safeguard your health.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Complete your regular duties early in the day so you'll have time for recreation later. Show affection for loved ones.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Ideal day for communicating with outsiders, so get an early start. Evening is best for studying a possible money-making venture.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Use care in motion today and avoid possible accident. Take needed health treatments and improve your appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make plans to save more money instead of spending it lavishly. Sidelstep a foe who could lead you in the wrong direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You want others to cooperate more with your wishes, but you have to be more careful if you want to get your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get busy doing something constructive if you feel limited in some way. Come to a better understanding with mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Avoid crotchety acquaintance during the day and then you can go out socially in the evening and have a fine time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be tactful with higher-ups today and avoid possible trouble. Enjoy cultural pursuits with congenials in the evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Associates could have fixed points of view at this time so sidestep any arguments. Take time to plan for the future.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATE

LONDON, April 30 (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

One sterling	2.2570/85	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.872/75	Canadian dollar
	1.8005/15	West German mark
	1.9890/9920	Dutch guilder
	1.6670/90	Swiss franc
	29.00/05	Belgian franc
	4.2020/70	French franc
	864.50/847.50	Italian lire
	239.20/50	Japanese yen
	4.2100/4.2200	Swedish crown
	4.9340/90	Norwegian crown
	5.6350/6400	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	512.00/516.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, April 30 (R) — The market closed firm after a moderately active session, dealers said. At 1500 the FT index was up 5.7 at 442.4.

After early firmness government bonds slipped ¼ point at the long end on reports a policeman was being held hostage inside the Iranian embassy in London and news of Bundesbank discount and Lombard rate rises. Gains on the day stretched to 7½ point on hopes of an early cut in minimum lending rate. Leading equities moved up to 6p higher but gold shares were mixed. American were mixed while Canadians were selectively higher.

Oils were a firm feature with Ultramar closing 28p up at 65p and Burmah 5p higher. Gains of 4p to 6p were seen in ICI, GKN, Tube Investments and Metal Box. BAT Industries firmed 14p after results and Pearson finished 2p up after it announced it would make an offer for Fairway Holdings.

Against the trend, Thorn shed 6p while the lower trend of U.S. interest rates prompted falls of up to 5p in leading banks.

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Zulu chief raps government tactics South African police crack down on protest by coloured students

JOHANNESBURG, April 30 (R)—South African police dispersed demonstrating black students with tear-gas in Durban today soon after Zulu chief Gatsha Buthelezi accused the government of using sabre-rattling tactics against coloured (mix race) pupils demanding educational equality.

White students at Cape Town University staged a protest march around their campus in sympathy with the two-week-old movement by at least 100,000 school children, mainly coloured. At the same time more than 1,200 teachers in Cape Town threatened to join in the nationwide boycott of classes. So far the protest has involved mainly students between 13 and 18 years of age.

Many parent kept their children at home in the Johannesburg area following a big police crack-down yesterday. A total of 854 pupils appeared in all-night court sittings after the breaking up of a demonstration in the coloured Westbury area. The pupils were charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act and released until May 13.

Following up a warning by Pre-

mier Pieter Botha in Parliament last night that organisers of the boycott would get hurt if the movement was not called off, Police Minister Louis le Grange promised tough action against illegal demonstrations.

Soon after this warning, police in the Indian Ocean seaport of Durban used tear-gas to disperse a group of about 600 black students trying to hold a protest march in sympathy with their coloured colleagues, witnesses said.

No other incidents were reported, though in Cape Town thousands of coloured school children staged protests inside their school grounds calling for equal education for all.

Chief Buthelezi, whose five million Zulus form South Africa's largest single ethnic group, said in



Gatsha Buthelezi

a statement that the schools boycott, like the black schools protest which led to the bloody Soweto riots, could "trigger off something big."

In 1976, black protest against the education system led to violent confrontation with police which began in the huge Johannesburg satellite city of Soweto and flared across the country, leaving about 600 dead.

Mr. Botha told parliament yesterday the government would oppose those who sought to push it around "from behind the uniforms of schoolchildren."

"I want to warn those people. They are going to get hurt and if there are some unfortunate consequences, they must not come with recriminations later," Mr. Botha said.

Chief Buthelezi, who advocates a national multi-racial convention to tackle South Africa's problems, said that unless fundamental changes were brought about these problems would never be solved.

He charged that "sabre-rattling" on the education issue would further erode prospects of a peaceful settlement.

A student spokesman said more than 4,000 of the 12,000 mainly white students on the Cape Town University campus had come out in support of the class boycott.

Cuban refugee wave reaches Florida

KEY WEST, Florida, April 30 (R)—More than 400 Cuban refugees had reached Florida by early today in the second major wave of a small boat exodus from the communist-controlled island, which has cost at least four lives in the past three days.

A coast guard spokesman in Miami said a search plane spotted two more bodies southeast of Key West yesterday—apparently victims of a weekend storm which temporarily halted the seafast and drowned two Cuban-Americans whose bodies were retrieved on Monday from a capsized cabin cruiser.

By darkness last night, 15 boats had made the 175-kilometre trip from Mariel, near Havana, carrying more than 400 Cubans, according to customs officers monitoring arrivals at Key West.

Florida national guardsmen patrolled the quays and helped keep Cuban sympathisers well away from the seafloor.

Generally the refugees' clothes were all they had been able to bring with them, apart from an occasional shoulder bag.

Some began to sing as they boarded buses after initial processing by U.S. immigration officials, but most seemed more bemused than exultant. But their voyage from Mariel had been uneventful under clear blue skies.

Just how many boats were still at Mariel awaiting permission from Cuban authorities to embark passengers and depart was unclear. Official coast guard estimates yesterday morning were around 1,700.

An estimated 3,900 Cubans have landed in Florida since the sea-lift began last week and about 1,600 have so far been processed by immigration officials here and in Miami.

Official sources in Miami said about 15 of the newcomers had been jailed because of their known criminal records in Cuba.

Dutch queen formally abdicates, succeeded by daughter Beatrix

AMSTERDAM, April 30 (R)—Queen Juliana of the Netherlands today formally abdicated and was succeeded by her eldest daughter Beatrix.

The 42-year-old crown princess became the country's sixth monarch as soon as her mother signed the instrument of abdication at a brief ceremony in the royal palace here attended by the entire Dutch cabinet.

Queen Juliana, who abdicated on her 71st birthday because she said she was getting too old to fulfil her duties responsibly, reverted to her former title of princess. She will not be known as the queen mother.

With her daughter sitting beside her, she said in a short speech in the palace that it was better for the Netherlands "that a fresh new force takes my place."

Thousands of people waited outside in the Dam Square, regarded as the heart of the Dutch capital and the country, to hail the new queen.

A day of national festivities began this morning with the firing of 101 shots from the guided missile frigate De Ruyter, moored on the nearby river IJ.

Queen Juliana, in a pale grey dress, signed the abdication document in the same room in which her mother, Queen Wilhelmina, abdicated in her favour in September 1948. Queen Juliana's reign lasted 31 years and seven months.

Royal household officials said a blueprint on arrangements for the abdication of Queen Juliana and the inauguration of her eldest daughter had existed for at least a decade before the monarch announced in January that she intended to step down.

Rumours that Queen Juliana was to abdicate swept the country several times during her reign. They began in 1956 when a public row broke after she consulted a faith healer to try to cure the partial blindness of the youngest of her four daughters.

Four years ago her husband, Prince Bernhard, became sonality from her mother, who was fond of cycling along country lanes and abolished much of the stiff formality at court.

The new monarch has been compared to her grandmother Queen Wilhelmina, a dominating figure who reigned for 50 years.

As queen, Beatrix will preside over the country's highest advisory body, the Council of State, to which she has belonged since she was 18. She is reported to take copious notes at council meetings, at which her mother generally stayed in the background.

"I'm a perfectionist," the new monarch says of herself. "I always



Juliana (right) with Beatrix, the Netherlands' new queen

entangled in the Lockheed bribes affair. A government commission found he had solicited money from the U.S. aircraft manufacturer and he was forced to resign as commander-in-chief of the Dutch armed forces.

The enthronement of Queen Beatrix brings about marked changes in the royal House of Orange.

Queen Beatrix, unlike her more easy-going mother, is a strong-willed, impatient woman with an overwhelming sense of public duty.

The new queen is expected to play a more dynamic public role, within the considerable limits imposed by the constitution, than her highly popular mother.

Queen Beatrix is widely regarded as a very different personality from her mother, who was fond of cycling along country lanes and abolished much of the stiff formality at court.

As crown princess, her main interests have been in social affairs. She has been closely associated with projects to help deprived children and minority groups. Before her marriage she donned a wig and dark glasses and, incognito, joined a Salvation Army team working among prostitutes in Amsterdam's red-light area.

Her wedding provided an example of her determination. She chose Amsterdam, traditionally a centre of radical protest, and not the more sedate city of The Hague, for her marriage in 1966 to diplomat Claus von Amsberg, disliked by many Dutch people because he was a German.

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World News Briefs

COPENHAGEN, April 30 (R)—A large part of central Copenhagen was sealed off by police today following extensive demonstrations street fighting in an inner slum quarter. The trouble began in city's Noerrebro quarter yesterday, when street fighting broke out between several thousand demonstrators and 500 police. Police removed the demonstrators from the site yesterday, and over 100 arrests have been made, police said. The demonstrators started as a sit-in to protest against the clearing by the authorities of a site which had been used for recreational purposes. Police removed the demonstrators from the site yesterday, and over 100 arrests have been made, police said. The demonstrators started as a sit-in to protest against the clearing by the authorities of a site which had been used for recreational purposes. Police removed the demonstrators from the site yesterday, and over 100 arrests have been made, police said. The demonstrators started as a sit-in to protest against the clearing by the authorities of a site which had been used for recreational purposes.

CATANIA, Sicily, April 30 (R)—Flashes of lightning shot out from the main crater of Mount Etna, Europe's largest volcano, and experts said a new eruption could follow. The 3,329-metre volcano has been dormant since last September, when a gas explosion opened a new crater and killed nine tourists climbing slopes. Volcanologists said the lightning, reflecting explosions in the lava-filled craters, was preceded by a growing number of tremors.

LONDON, April 30 (AP)—Britain's armed forces have been given a big pay hike averaging 16.8 per cent, part of the Conservative government's bid to step up recruitment and build up a highly-defence establishment. The increases, announced in Parliament yesterday, were backdated to April 1. They top the 14 per cent limit pay hikes in the civil services, state-run industries and other government services. Britain currently has 319,000 servicemen and women. The pay hikes will add £290 million to the government's defence bill, which this year will run to a projected £10.8 billion. The pay hikes will add £290 million to the government's defence bill, which this year will run to a projected £10.8 billion. The pay hikes will add £290 million to the government's defence bill, which this year will run to a projected £10.8 billion.

WASHINGTON, April 30 (AP)—Newscaster Walter Cronkite of the Columbia Broadcasting Company (CBS) flatly denied yesterday that he would consider running for vice-president on a ticket with presidential hopeful Mr. John Anderson. Mr. Cronkite, named polls as one of the most popular and highly trusted men in America, was quoted in the May 3 issue of Newsweek magazine as saying he would be honoured to join Mr. Anderson in the 1980 presidential race. However, in a statement issued through CBS, Mr. Cronkite said: "I have no interest in entering politics in any capacity. I have never endorsed a political candidate and I have no intention of endorsing a political candidate in the upcoming campaign, including Mr. Anderson." The short statement concluded: "It is not the time a political career has been suggested for me and my answer is the same as it has always been—not interested."

KATHMANDU, April 30 (R)—King Birendra of Nepal has won his subjects against political violence on Friday when 7.2 million Nepalese vote in a national referendum to decide whether they want multi-party system. King Birendra, in a message to this Himalayan kingdom of 14 million last night, said that trouble-makers would deal with "firmly without let or hindrance." The referendum will decide whether Nepal should revive its political parties, banned in 1960 after a one-year experiment with democracy, or retain a present Panchayat (council) government system. At least one person has died this month and an unknown number have been injured in the past year in violent clashes between supporters of the non-party and the multi-party system. The referendum was called after six violence a year ago when 40 people died in an upsurge of protest against the ban on political parties. Home Minister Jogi Prasad Shrestha today denied unofficial reports which said six people had been killed last Thursday in fighting in the south-eastern town of Janakpur.

SEOUL, April 30 (R)—The South Korea Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA), whose former chief assassinated President Park Chung-hee last October, today announced a major reshuffle affecting most of its senior officials. Thirty-three of the agency's 40 section chiefs and bureau directors had been replaced, said acting KCIA director Lieutenant-General Chun Doo-hwan, who was appointed two weeks ago to succeed condemned assassin Mr. Kim Jae-gil. General Chun told a press conference yesterday he planned to take the function of the KCIA to prevent it from abusing power as it had under the late president. The agency will now be charged only with anti-communist intelligence and other security functions, he said.

WASHINGTON, April 30 (R)—The United States will keep grain sales to the Soviet Union to a minimum for most of next year because of the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland said yesterday. In doing so, the United States would still be honouring a five-year grain supply agreement between the two countries which expired in September next year, he told reporters. After the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, President Carter on Jan. 4 restricted grain sales to the Soviet Union to eight million tonnes, the minimum allowed, this year. Mr. Bergland said eight million tonnes would also be the most the Soviet Union could buy in the 12 months beginning in September.

Ohira, Carter to meet

WASHINGTON, April 30 (R)—President Carter gets his first face-to-face reaction from a major ally to the abortive Iran rescue tomorrow when he meets Japanese Premier Masayoshi Ohira.

Mr. Ohira is expected to urge him in their two-hour talk at the White House to confine himself to diplomacy and negotiation in future efforts to free the 53 Americans held hostage in Iran.

But U.S. officials emphasised today that there were no major differences between the two men and Washington was grateful for the sacrifices Japan has made to back the U.S. over Iran.

Japan has ended imports of Iranian oil and agreed, along with European Common Market countries, to impose economic sanctions on Iran unless there is major progress by May 17 toward freeing the hostages.

Mr. Ohira and Foreign Minister Shunichi Ohira were due to arrive this afternoon for the visit. They are also going to Canada and Mexico, where they are expected to seek bigger oil supplies.

Mr. Ohira is expected to discuss with Mr. Carter Japan's new need for oil following its Iran cutoff. About ten per cent of Japan's oil came from Iran.

He will assure Mr. Carter, according to Japanese officials in Tokyo, that Japan stands firmly behind the United States despite last week's unsuccessful rescue bid by U.S. troops and the resignation of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who opposed the venture.

Mr. Ohira still regards the United Nations as a possible mediator in the hostage crisis at Mr. Okita will see U.S. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim in New York during the visit. Japan is also expected to assist Mr. Carter that it backs a boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games in retaliation for Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, though Japan Olympic chiefs have the final word on that on May 22.

"Japan has been extremely supportive of our policies and we are appreciative of the sacrifices they have made," said one U.S. official.

"We will be seeking support for our policies in Southwest Asia (over Iran and Afghanistan) but that is not to say there are differences between ourselves and Japan."

Other subjects likely to be discussed include the reduced U.S. naval presence in the Japan Sea because of the Afghan and Iranian crises and U.S. efforts to narrow the gap in its trade imbalance with Japan, which last year was \$8 billion in Japan's favour.

Sweden faced with worst labour strife in 70 years

STOCKHOLM, April 30 (R)—Sweden faced its worst labour strife in 70 years today after unions rejected the latest wage offer and employers vowed to lock out 750,000 workers at midnight tomorrow.

"The difference between the parties is so great, it's pointless to discuss what an acceptable offer would be," said Mr. Gunnar Nilsson, chairman of the Trade Unions Confederation (LO).

"I see nothing which could prevent the conflict," said Mr. Ciof Ljunggren, managing-director of the Swedish Employers' Confederation (SAF).

LO has demanded an 11.3 per cent rise for the rest of the year for its 2.2 million members. Today it rejected an offer from government mediators, which SAF accepted, of about 2.3 per cent.

If the employers begin their week-long lockout as planned from midnight tomorrow, the unions have said they will pull 100,000 members out on strike.

No further private sector meetings were scheduled for today or tomorrow, then the labour movement's traditional May Day demonstrations are expected to be massive.

Meanwhile, a six-day strike of 14,000 public sector employees and the lockout of 12,000 more continued to ground civil air traffic, halt most television and radio broadcasts, close the Stockholm underground and disrupt schools and hospitals.

Queues of lorries built up on Sweden's borders with Finland and Norway as customs men struck. But today the customs officials began to give lorries in transit through Sweden a special customs clearance.

Hollywood pays homage to Sir Alfred

LOS ANGELES, April 30 (R)—Hollywood today paid homage to its master of suspense films, Sir Alfred Hitchcock, who died at his home here at the age of 80 with his family by his bedside.

James Stewart, who starred in four of Sir Alfred's 60 films—"Rope," "Rear Window," "The Man Who Knew Too Much" and "Vertigo"—said of the British-born director: "I have lost a great



Sir Alfred Hitchcock

friend and the world has lost one of its finest directors. He has been a source of joy to people all over the world."

Henry Fonda said: "Sir Alfred was a genius with camera angles. Hollywood has lost a great one."

Actress Tippi Hedren, who appeared in two Hitchcock films, "The Birds" and "Marnie," commented: "Sir Alfred, a master director and storyteller, is a cult and will remain so."

Actor Robert Cummings, who appeared in two Hitchcock films, "Saboteur" and "Dial M for Mur-

der," said: "Sir Alfred was one of the kindest, most considerate men I ever met."

Sir Alfred, a naturalised American who received his knighthood last January, died yesterday. His wife of 53 years, Alma, their daughter, Patricia, and their three grandchildren were at his bedside.

A spokesman for his film studio, Universal, said Sir Alfred had a heart pacemaker and suffered crippling bouts of arthritis in his last years which confined him to a wheelchair or crutches. His health had been failing for a week and his death had been expected.

Studio workers, ranging from stagehands to directors, mourned the death of the man who said his mission in life was to scare cinema audiences and also to entertain them. "I know when an audience is going to scream and I enjoy it," Sir Alfred said.

The small, portly film-maker, always called "Hitch" and probably best known for his spine-chilling "Psycho" and "Spellbound," was working to the end. His next film "The Short Night" was to be about British spy George Blake.

Mr. Hitchcock was an exacting director who would rehearse scenes months in advance. Nothing was left to chance in one of his films.

Sir Alfred once explained his work this way: "The only way to get rid of my fears is to make films about them."

At the age of six he was once locked in a police cell for five

minutes by his father as a punishment and he said the terror he felt never left him. "Even a policeman asking for my driving licence is enough to chill me," he said, adding that this was a reason he never learned to drive.

Ingrid Bergman, who acted as mistress of ceremonies at a dinner in tribute to him last year, said then the director was an adorable genius who had taught her much about acting. "He is a farmer who raises gooseflesh," she said.

The Hitchcock film "Rebecca" starring Laurence Olivier, won a Hollywood Oscar in 1940 for best film. But Sir Alfred never won an Oscar for directing, although he was nominated for "Rebecca," "Lifeboat," "Spellbound," "Rear Window," and "Psycho."

Sir Alfred, who sometimes had trouble pronouncing his words in his final years but never lost his wit, said of the tributes and accolades, including the French Legion of Honour, poured on him towards the end of his career: "This has encouraged me. I will go on."

A fleeting shot of himself became Mr. Hitchcock's trademark in his films. One that produced most difficulty was "Lifeboat," the tale of nine people stranded alone in a boat after their ship was torpedoed.

Mr. Hitchcock got round the plot by having actor William Bendix read a weight-reducing advertisement in an old newspaper illustrated by a photograph of a fat man—Mr. Hitchcock.

Mr. Hitchcock got round the plot by having actor William Bendix read a weight-reducing advertisement in an old newspaper illustrated by a photograph of a fat man—Mr. Hitchcock.

Liberian calls halt to executions of ousted officials

OAU approves resolutions aimed at setting up African common market

LAGOS, April 30 (R)—African leaders yesterday approved resolutions aimed at setting up an African common market by the year 2000.

The resolutions were drafted to bring political stability to Africa through economic cooperation. After emerging from a closed session, the summit ended with President Leopold Senghor of Senegal, who presided over the conference, stating that the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) condemned political assassination, a reference to the death this month of Liberian President William Tolbert.

On the opening day of the two-day summit, Nigerian President Shehu Shagari said it was unrealistic for the developed world to think it could sustain its standard of living by buying African raw materials cheaply and then selling

their manufactured goods back to Africa at high prices.

Many speakers at the summit and at a week's preparatory ministerial meeting had spoken of the need for African states to reduce the rate of violent political upheavals on the continent by improving the lives of their people through economic development.

Ethiopia was the first to bring up the subject of the Liberian coup when Colonel Addis Tedla, economic affairs minister of Ethiopia's ruling military council, said his country deeply regretted the absence from the conference of a delegation from the new Liberian government headed by Master-Sergeant Samuel Doe.

Meanwhile, the new military regime in Liberia, bowing to international pressure, yesterday announced that there would be no more executions of ousted government officials.

The execution of 13 officials of the deposed government of President Tolbert has left the regime of 28-year-old Sergeant Doe isolated internationally.

The 13 officials were executed on April 22, ten days after the coup in which President Tolbert was killed. The executions provoked appeals for clemency from the OAU and other governments.

The OAU will send a three-nation peace-keeping force to Chad to try to end the latest month-old bout of fighting in the Chad civil war, OAU Secretary-General Edem Kodjo reaffirmed here today.

About 2,000 troops from Congo, Benin and Guinea would be sent to the central African state on behalf of the 50-nation pan-African organisation, he said.

Chad President Goukouni Oueddei, whose forces are fighting a rebellion by recently dismissed defence minister Mr. Hissene Habre, gave his blessing to the sending of the force as soon as possible, Mr. Kodjo said.

In several interviews given in the past two days in Lagos, President Goukouni has said that there could be no reconciliation with his former minister. He said the fighting, concentrated in and around the capital, N'Djamena, would go on until there was a clear winner.

Mr. Kodjo said the peace-keeping force would be flown to N'Djamena as soon as possible.

Disarmament negotiators end session

GENEVA, April 30 (R)—Disarmament negotiators last night ended a three-month session which was dominated by East-West wrangling over Kampuchea and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

But the 40-member committee succeeded in setting up a working party to consider banning the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons even while delegations traded charges about the use of these weapons in Afghanistan and Indochina.

The United Nations-backed panel, grouping all five nuclear powers in a regular disarmament forum for the first time, will meet again next June 12 at the Geneva U.N. offices.

Newly-formed groups will then resume their study of how nuclear powers should guarantee the safety of states without nuclear weapons, as well as a possible ban on radiological weapons which

destroy by non-nuclear radiation and a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

Delegates failed to reach a last-minute compromise on the admittance of non-committee members Denmark, Spain, Austria, Vietnam and the two sides in the Kampuchea conflict to the chemical weapons group.

East Germany and Mongolia rejected Western proposals that Spain, Austria and Denmark should be invited as "non-controversial" candidates, arguing that Vietnam's credentials as a U.N. member state were also impeccable.

Pakistani delegate Mr. Munir Akram said there could be no consensus on the request by Vietnam until the question of Kampuchean representation was settled.

He added his voice to calls for an impartial inquiry into reports of napalm and lethal chemical weapons including three different

gases being used against defenceless Afghan civilians.

Soviet Ambassador Viktor Iskraev later denied at a news conference that his government's troops in Afghanistan had employed chemical weapons, and challenged the United States and other critics to prove allegations about this.

In their closing speeches, several countries referred to the worsening international atmosphere since the committee began its 1980 work on Feb. 5, but hailed the establishment of the four working groups.

The United States, Soviet Union and Britain, which are negotiating privately on a treaty to ban all nuclear tests for military or peaceful purposes, will also resume their talks in June and are preparing a substantial report for the full committee, Western sources said.